

Model Employees!

1 Peter 2:18-20; Ephesians 6:5-8
East Berlin Community Church
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Introduction:

- Your job as your mission field

Model Employees!

A. Slavery in Peter's day

1. Prevalence: 2/3 of the population were slaves
2. Old Testament and Slavery
 - a. Permitted and regulated
 - 1) Not to be abused – Exodus 21:26-27
 - 2) Liberal severance package—Deut. 15:13-14
 - 3) Released on Year of Jubilee—Lev. 25:10
 - b. Not permitted: Kidnapping into slavery—Exodus 21:16
3. Differences between slaves in biblical times and slavery in America

4. Many saw slavery as a way of getting ahead in life
5. Differences between “slaves” and employees today

B. Submission to Employers—1 Peter 2:18; Ephesians 6:5-8

1. General Principle: Submission regardless
 - a. Of treatment
 - b. Of religion. Working for a Christian boss—1 Timothy 6:1-2
2. Specific Manner of Submission
 - a. “with all fear”—1 Peter 2:18
 - 1) Extends to bosses who are “good” and “gentle”
 - 2) Extends also to bosses who are “harsh”
 - b. “with sincerity of heart” – Ephesians 6:5; 1 Thess. 4:10-12
 - c. “not with eye-service as men-pleasers” – Ephesians 6:6
 - 1) We are servants of God—1 Cor. 6:19-20
 - 2) All work is sacred—Colossians 3:23
 - 3) We work for ONE BOSS—Jesus Christ
 - d. “with good will doing service”

C. Submission to a Nasty Boss—1 Peter 2:18-20

1. Problem: Slaves and “nasty” masters
2. Principle: Submission when treated unfairly pleases God!
 - a. No praise for wrong-doers 1 Peter 2:20
 - b. Blessing for those who do good and yet suffer. Matt. 5:11-12

D. Submission TODAY

1. We should seek to be the BEST employees we can be.
2. When treated harshly, we do have options available.
3. Whatever option we choose, we need to maintain our Christian witness! Titus 2:9-10